

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

APRIL 12, 2007 - 7: 15 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: In Mayor Ellis's absence, Council President Franklin called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM and made the following statement: Under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of the time and place of this meeting was given by way of annual notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, Messenger-Gazette and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and SILENT PRAYER

ROLL CALL

Franklin [P] Black [P] Mobus [P] Joren [P] Pote [P] Nehls [P]

Also present were Administrator/Clerk Lauren Fellin, Borough Attorney Albert Cruz, and Deputy Clerk Michelle DeRocco.

There were 10 members of the public present.

REVIEW OF 2007 DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUEST

Fire Department

Fire Chief Steve Peterson was present this evening to discuss the Fire Department's 2007 budget requests, as he was unable to attend the March 24, 2007 budget meeting. He explained that his budget reflects a slight reduction from last year's, as they are able to keep costs down due to using in-house people for things that need to be done. He said after talking to CFO Bill Hance last year, he was able to implement a program to re-use equipment and still stay within the safety requirements. He reported fire activity has increased, due to mutual aid, and all levels of service have increased. Chief Peterson said that the department is experiencing a longer life span on all of their equipment, due to being smarter. When asked about the department's communication equipment, Chief Peterson replied that they are on board with the new vendor, and in anticipation of a new command vehicle they will need to provide sirens and the retro fit of the speakers. In regard to the capital budget requests, he said they are requesting to continue to replace fire apparatus, and explained that are looking to replace their "1st generation" thermal imaging camera. Councilman Nehls questioned the line item on the proposed budget of \$45,000 for a 4-wheel drive vehicle and Chief Peterson said that was an error and to disregard it. Much discussion was had in regard to the retirement and rotation of old vehicles and the East End Firehouse, which Chief Peterson said he is anticipating to become more active, as some new members live on that end of town. Chief Peterson thanked the governing body for their time and said he and the members appreciate the support they receive and all that the governing body does for them does not go unnoticed.

Council President Franklin deviated from the agenda and read a proclamation, declaring the month of May as Neurofibromatosis Awareness Month in the Borough of Watchung, in honor of 19 year old resident Sandra Blumberg who suffers from this disease. Councilman Franklin welcomed Sandra and her family, and presented her with the proclamation and said she was a very courageous young lady. Sandra thanked the governing body and her mother, Martha Blumberg, distributed more information on this disease, and announced other events that are taking place around the Borough to raise funds for the Children's Tumor Foundation. (copy of proclamation can be found on the Borough's website). Councilman Nehls announced that the proceeds from this year's annual Emergency Services Pancake Breakfast on May 5th will go to the Children's Tumor Foundation, in Sandra's honor.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance - Councilman Black had no report.
2. Police - Councilman Franklin said he is in receipt of the police activity report and said although it reflects an increase in the number of arrests made, there is a decrease in the criminal nature of the arrests and explained that this is due to a category not listed in the felonies – "failure to appear" and "contempt of court". He said our police are always on the alert. Councilman Franklin said he met with Charles Gunther to discuss the climate control problem in the police department, and it was decided that after many years and much expense of trying to "bandaid" the problems, it would be in the best interest of the Borough to bring in a specialized consultant to find the best remedy.
3. Public Works - Councilman Mobus reported letters were mailed to the residents benefiting from the Sunbright/Corey sewer improvement project to advise them of the procedure to "hook up", and said they have 180 days to do so. He announced the County has plans to pave part of Valley Road this Friday and Monday, and complete it in June or July.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Buildings -Councilman Pote announced that discussions will be held with the Borough employees currently housed in the Texier House, to get their input before the plans for the Bonus Room are finalized. He reported the Historical Committee met this week and expressed their interest in the possibility of calling the Texier House their home. He said the Historical Committee held their first Victorian Tea and reported it was so successful, they plan on holding more in the future. Councilman Pote said the Rescue Squad answered 29 calls in March, and noted that on the evening of the last Council meeting, Watchung responded again to another call for extrication in Warren and again, were the first ones on the scene. He commented that the mutual aid agreement with Warren is working very well.

Public Affairs - Councilman Nehls announced that the Board of Health meeting will be held next week, and announced that a recent study on Building Code Enforcement showed an improvement for Watchung every year.

5. Fire - Councilman Nehls reported that the Fire Department is scheduled to meet next week.

6. Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation - Councilwoman Joren said the final changes to the Land Development Ordinance are done and are awaiting some procedural steps for finalization before it is to be introduced in May. In regard to Recreation, Mrs. Joren said the Commission had a meeting last week and worked on the summer program. She also announced April 21st is Little League opening day, and the Community Picnic is scheduled for May 27th, with a rain date of May 28th, from 12 noon to 3:00 pm at Mobus Field. Councilwoman Joren reported that two residents attended the meeting and voiced their concern over the conditions of the tennis courts, both at Camp Endeavor and at Mobus Field. Mrs. Fellin advised Mrs. Joren that an e-mail was received this afternoon from the JIF in regard to the safety of these courts. Mrs. Joren said she will discuss this further with Charles Gunther. Councilman Mobus noted that many years ago there was a resurfacing schedule that was followed, however, over the years has been discontinued. Mrs. Joren questioned if the permit process is still in use and Mrs. Fellin said it is, or should be, however, does not believe people are abiding by the requirement. It was agreed that this procedure should be reinforced via the web site and notices from the Recreation Commission.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer - No Report.

8. Attorney - Mr. Cruz said he had nothing to report and no items for Executive Session.

9. Administrator - Mrs. Fellin had nothing to report.

Councilman Pote said that he wanted to let people know what an inspiration Sandra Blumberg is to other people. He explained that his daughter Jen is a freshman at Watchung Hills Regional High School and Sandra has brought a real sense of passion and community spirit to the school. He said the students have raised thousands of dollars for the Children’s Tumor Foundation in Sandra’s name, by selling rubber bracelets that say “Sandra - Heart of a Warrior”. He said she is the source of many conversations and has really made a difference in what she has given back to Watchung and the school. Councilman Franklin noted that in addition to the Pancake Breakfast, on the agenda is the approval of a raffle license to the Children’s Tumor Foundation for another fund raising event.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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NEW BUSINESS

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CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda listed below was unanimously accepted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Black and a second by Councilman Mobus.

Approval of the following Council minutes:

Approval of the following Borough Reports:

- Environmental Commission - Minutes of January 29, 2007
- Police Activity Report - March, 2007

#25 - Borough of Manville 3/29/07 Resolution supporting the installation of Wayside Horn Warning System at all Railroad Crossings in Somerset County c: M & C

#26 - Federal Aviation Administration 4/9/07 Notice of Noise Mitigation Meetings c: M & C, Post

#27 - Somerset County, Dept. Of Public Works 4/9/07 Resolution to amend Solid Waste Management Plan c: M & C, AC

#28 - Wayne Otto 4/11/07 E-mail regarding Grant Funding for Rescue Tools c: M & C, AC

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The Consent Agenda listed below was unanimously accepted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Black and a second by Councilman Mobus.

- R1:04/12/07 Appointment to Municipal Alliance - Carolyn Taylor, Kathleen Germaine, Joe Cina
- R2: Purchases Over \$2,000. - Warnock Dodge, Inc., NJ Dept. of Treasury
- R3: Authorize execution of agreement with Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission
- R4: Authorize Interlocal Agreement - Use of Municipal Court Facility by North Plainfield
- R5: Authorize Issuance of Raffle Licenses for Children’s Tumor Foundation
- R6: Authorize Tax Collector to Issue Tax Sale Certificate Redemption - Block 6403, Lot 2

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Introduction of OR:07/06 entitled “AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING CHAPTER XVIII OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG KNOWN AS “SEWERS”, ADDING A NEW SECTION 18-11 ENTITLED “ILLICIT CONNECTIONS” AS HERETOFORE SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED” Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. This ordinance will prohibit illicit connections to the municipal storm sewer systems. Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading and the Clerk be directed to publish the ordinance and notice of public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously carried on roll call. Public Hearing to be held on April 26, 2007.

Introduction of OR:07/07 entitled “AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR STORMWATER CONTROL FOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG AND ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER XXI ENTITLES ‘STORMWATER CONTROL’ ” Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. This ordinance requires adoption and implementation of a stormwater control ordinance in order to establish minimum stormwater management requirements and controls for major development. Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading and the Clerk be directed to publish the ordinance and notice of public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Black and unanimously carried on roll call. Public Hearing to be held on April 26, 2007.

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NON-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions listed below were unanimously adopted on roll call with offering and seconding as follows:

	<u>Offered</u>	<u>Second</u>
R7: Ratification of Council Subcommittee Action Regarding Fireman’s Fund Grant Award WITHDRAWN		
R8 : Adoption of Emergency Management Operations Plan, Including Protocols for Emergency Response for Fire, Extrication, and Rescue WITHDRAWN		
R9: Introduction of OR:07/06 - Prohibiting Illicit Connections to the Municipal Storm Sewer Systems Operated by the Borough	Joren	Black
R10: Introduction of OR:07/07 - Amending Borough Code - Addition of New Chapt. XXI Entitled “Stormwater Control”, providing Rules and Regulation for Stormwater Control	Joren	Black

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PUBLIC PORTION

Lee Erhenworth, Canterbury Lane, advised the governing body that he is aware of an excellent agency located in Middlesex County who he would highly recommend as a consultant for the HVAC system at the Police Department.

Anthony Addario, Rock Avenue, said there have been climate control problems with the Police facility even before it opened. He asked for an explanation of correspondence #28 on the agenda, an email from Wayne Otto regarding Grant Funding for Rescue Tools. Councilman Franklin explained that a grant was recently received from the Fireman's Fund and Wayne Otto was helpful in obtaining it. He said there had been much discussion on what tools should be purchased with this grant money, and Mr. Otto met with Somerset County Emergency Management Director LeRoy Gunzelman for his advice. Former Mayor Addario said the governing body has the responsibility to do what is best for the residents and said he feels they have overstepped their boundaries in their "zest" to be everything to everyone. Mr. Addario also said a decision had been made years ago to get rid of one pumper and one old truck and they are still here, and the Borough is paying insurance on them.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM to the call of the Chair or the next regularly scheduled meeting of April 26, 2007 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC
Deputy Clerk